CLAIMS

We claim:

1) A method for reducing or eliminating a decrease in neurosensory retinal function following laser treatment of chorodial neovascularization (CNV) while maintaining the vascular occlusion therapeutic effect of such therapy, the method comprising the steps: a) administering to a mammal having a CNV a therapeutically effective amount of an alpha receptor agonist, b) subjecting said mammal to laser irradiation of the retinal locus of the CNV; wherein the amount of neurosensory retinal function following steps a) and b) is greater than when said mammal is subjected to step b) without step a).

2) The method of claim 1 wherein the alpha adrenergic receptor agonist is an alpha 2 selective agonist.

3) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha adrenergic receptor agonist is selected from the group consisting of brinoinidine, clonidine, and para-aminoclonidine.

4) The method of claim 3 in which the alpha adrenergic receptor agonist is brimonidine.

5) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B and/or 2C selective agonist.

6) The method of claim 3 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B selective agonist.

7) The method of claim 6 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of AGN 960, AGN 795 and AGN 923.

8) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 960.

9) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 795.

10) The method of claim 7 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 923.

11) The method of claim 4 wherein the alpha 2 selective agonist is an alpha 2B specific agonist.

12) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to step b) said method comprises: administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a photoactive agent in a manner

such that said photoactive agent is present in the CNV during step b).

13) A method of protecting ocular neural tissue from damage caused by electromagnetic irradiation of the retina comprising delivering to a patient's ocular neural tissue an amount of a neuroprotectant compound effective to protect a plurality of ocular neurons from cell death as compared to ocular neuron cell death following such irradiation observed in the absence of the administration of said neuroprotectant.

14) The method of claim 13 wherein said electromagnetic irradiation is laser irradiation.

15) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is an alpha adrenergic agonist.

16) The method of claim 13 wherein said alpha adrenergic agonist is an alpha 2 selective agonist.

17) The method of claim 16 wherein said alpha 2 selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of brimonidine, clonidine and para-aminoclonidine.

18) The method of claim 17 wherein said compound is brimonidine.

19) The method of claim 13 wherein said alpha adrenergic receptor agonist is an alpha 2B and/or alpha 2C selective agonist.

20) The method of claim 19 wherein said alpha 2B and/or alpha 2C selective agonist is selected from the group consisting of AGN 960, AGN 795 and AGN 923.

21) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 960.

22) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 795.

23) The method of claim 20 in which the alpha 2B selective agonist is AGN 923.

24) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered at a time sufficiently before said electromagnetic irradiation to permit localization within ocular tissue prior to said treatment.

25) The method of claim 13 wherein said neuroprotectant compound is administered following said electromagnetic irradiation.